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Volume 17 Issue 76

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews

Music Overload Weekend

WHAT'S A POOR BOY TO DO?

And I have to watch all the NBA All-Star weekend stuff too! I should've just stayed in Albuquerque and kept my life less complicated.

I hope y'all always read through my live music recommendations for the week, for several reasons.

You might think, there's no way I'm getting off this couch to go hear some band, definitely not way over in Silverlake and no way after 10 PM — but you might read something I write about them that would convince and compel you, and then — your life will be richer!

SEE MUSIC PAGE 11

The Re-View

By Merv Hecht

Little Ruby Café

I WATCHED A PROGRAM ON TV last week that chronicled the life of a very successful restaurant owner in New York City. What I learned from him was that location is mildly important, food quality is important, but above all what makes a restaurant successful is making the customer feel good.

That concept came to mind recently when I had a cheeseburger at Little Ruby, a reasonably new café just off Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica. The people there were so friendly, that I felt really good about having lunch there, and for some reason (maybe that's it) my cheeseburger tasted remarkably

SEE FOOD PAGE 6

Lunar New Year brings dragons and dough to Santa Monica Place



Courtesy Photo

CELEBRATION: There will be dancers and activities at Santa Monica Place to mark New Year.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

For many, New Years has come and gone with resolutions already discarded as we return to our routines. However, the Lunar New Year actually begins this weekend and locals have another chance to restart their year.

Unlike the Western calendar, the Lunar New year is based on the moon. The date varies year to year and usually falls between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20. This year the celebration begins on Feb. 16.

Sometimes referred to as the Chinese New Year, the Lunar cycle includes a 12-year zodiac with each year named after an animal. Individuals born that year are said to inherit traits associated with the zodiac animal of that year. 2018 will be the Year of the Dog. In addition to the animal, there's a "heavenly branch" that corresponds to an element. 2018 will specifically be the Earth Dog. Those born this year are said to be communicative, serious, and responsible in work.

Zhang Ping, Consul General in Los Angeles issued a statement on the celebrations.

"The Lunar New Year, or the Spring Festival, is the most important traditional festival for Chinese people," he said. "It bears our aspirations for a better life and pursuit for harmony, reunion, happiness, peace and prosperity. These values that are embedded in the Chinese culture are well received throughout the world and the Spring Festival has become a much celebrated event in many countries."

Locally, Santa Monica Place will host a Lunar New Year celebration on Saturday, Feb 17 from 2 – 6 p.m.

"Hosted by Katherine Ho from The Voice on NBC, celebrations will include authentic cultural performances and activities such as the traditional Chinese dragon dance, Korean fan dance, stilt walkers, classical folk music from a Chinese musical duo, New Year's Wishing Trees and family-friendly arts and crafts for all to enjoy," said the mall in a statement.

SEE LUNAR PAGE 7

Play Time

By Cynthia Citron

Splendid Threads in London

WHEN A SUPERB ACTOR LIKE Daniel Day-Lewis announces that his current film, "Phantom Thread", will be his last, you can be sure that all those who admire him as one of the finest actors of his generation will flock to see it. And hope that his retirement will be similar to that of Barbra Streisand, in that he will return periodically, as she does, to take part in an event or production that tickles his fancy.

In "Phantom Thread" Day-Lewis dominates the film as Reynolds Woodcock, an obsessive fashion designer in 1950s London, where his high-society clients wait in day-long

SEE PLAY PAGE 7

Film Review

By Kathryn Whitney Boole

OSCAR CHOICES 2018
Best Screenplay

THE 90TH ACADEMY AWARDS ceremony takes place on Sunday March 4th. Leading up to that evening, I will give my analysis and my favorites among the nominees over the next three weeks. Actually, I believe it's absurd to choose winners when art is involved. Art is not a race and carries a great amount of its impact in the eye of the beholder. The Oscars, in my mind, do not signify winners. They are the manifestation of respect for masterpieces by fellow artists. I believe it carries as much importance for a film to be nominated for an Oscar as to win one. With that in mind, here are my thoughts…

SEE MOVIE PAGE 4


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, February 15

Housing Commission Meeting
Regular meeting of the Housing Commission. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street. 4:30 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting
Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7:30 p.m.

Citizenship Classes
An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Crafty Kids: Lunar New Year
Find out what your zodiac animal is and celebrate the 2018 lunar new year – the Year of the Dog. Make an origami dog and lantern. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Citizenship Classes
An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Black History Month Movie: Fences
A working-class African-American father tries to raise his family in the 1950s, while coming to terms with the events of his life. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Class
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Noon - 2 p.m.

Workshop: Cover Letters
Instructors from Chrysalis lead workshops to help you get on the right track to employment. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday, February 16

Annenberg Guest House Tour
Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Saturday, February 17

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market Downtown
The Organic Market boasts the largest percentage of Certified Organic growers of the City's four markets. 2nd @ Arizona Avenue. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday Certified Farmer's Market Virginia Ave. Park
Market in the heart of the Pico/Cloverfield neighborhood. Offers a variety of organic and conventionally-grown produce, in addition to several prepared food options and coffee. The only Santa Monica Farmers Market offering Market Match incentives for WIC and EBT customers. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tax Preparation Assistance
Students from the UCLA organization VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) provide FREE tax assistance for filing both Federal and California State income taxes. VITA aims to help seniors and those with limited or low income. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lego Club
Come have fun with LEGOS and build something amazing. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to events@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Bird agrees to pay over $300,000 to end complaint

On February 14, Santa Monica City Attorney's Office prosecutors entered a plea agreement with Bird Rides, Inc. and Travis VanderZanden (collectively "Bird"), whereby Bird will accept responsibility for violating local law and pay significant penalties. Upon a referral from the City's Code Enforcement Division, prosecutors filed a criminal complaint against the motorized scooter company and its president on December 6, 2017. Both were charged with multiple counts of violating local law by operating a commercial scooter rental business on the public right of way without a proper City business license and failing to comply with City administrative citations.

As part of the plea agreement, Bird agreed to:

Secure proper City business licenses and work with the City's Business License Division to ensure compliance with local business licensing regulations. Pay previously issued Administrative Citation fines totaling $6,115.63. Pay additional fines and investigative costs totaling $300,000. Run a weeklong public safety education campaign on the Big Blue Bus. Accept responsibility for Bird's prior conduct, plead "No Contest" to an infraction and pay additional criminal fines of $200 plus statutory penalty assessments.

"With this agreement, Bird and VanderZanden acknowledge that they failed to comply with the City of Santa Monica's business licensing requirements which are designed to protect the safety of the public," said Deputy City Attorney Eda Suh. "Bringing this new business into compliance with local law achieves a fair and positive outcome for the people of Santa Monica."

The plea agreement must still be approved by the California Superior Court before it becomes effective. Prosecutors and Bird will return to court on February 26th to seek Court approval of this plea agreement.

In this case, the City will devote a significant portion of the fines it will collect to a broader public safety campaign for Vision Zero, the City Council's goal of eliminating deaths and significant injuries from traffic collisions.

The City of Santa Monica continues to work with Bird Rides to address safety concerns posed by unsafe operation of motorized scooters. The California Vehicle Code prohibits them from being operated on sidewalks or on the beach bike path and riders must have a valid driver's license and wear a helmet, with only one person to a device. The Santa Monica Police Department has worked to educate riders on these requirements and is now citing motorized scooter riders for State Law violations.

Bird has also recently reduced the top speed of their scooters from 22 to 15 miles per hour; instituted a free helmet service for users; marked their vehicles with key safety rules; more clearly spelled out safety rules on their App; and improved their App security to help ensure that only those with a valid driver's license can register to ride a scooter.

SUBMITTED BY EDA SUH DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

EDITOR'S NOTE: BIRD RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

"We are pleased that Bird and the City of Santa Monica were able to work out our differences regarding licensure. Under the agreement, the city agreed to dismiss the nine original misdemeanor counts, and the company agreed to plead no contest to a single infraction of the city's municipal code. Bird now starts fresh with the city, and we look forward to continuing to provide a safe, environmentally friendly transportation solution to the people of Santa Monica."

MARCUS REESE, BIRD SPOKESMAN

LOS ANGELES

Producer Ryan Murphy signs exclusive Netflix deal

TV and movie producer Ryan Murphy is expanding his empire to Netflix.

The streaming service says Murphy signed a deal to produce new series and films exclusively for it starting in July. Details of the multiyear deal were not disclosed.

Murphy has been producing TV shows for the Fox broadcast network and FX cable channel, including "Glee," "9-1-1," "American Crime Story" and "American Horror Story."

He will continue working on the Fox and FX shows produced by 20th Century Fox Television, a spokesman for Murphy said Wednesday.

Two new shows that will premiere on Netflix, "Ratched" and "The Politician," also will be produced by Fox, his spokesman said.

Murphy's big-screen credits include "Running with Scissors" and "Eat Pray Love."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Citywide

Review: 'Poison' by John Lescroart is a marvelous mystery

Thoughts of retirement for attorney Dismas Hardy have to be put on hold when a former client begs for his help in "Poison," John Lescroart's latest thriller.

Abby Jarvis made a horrible mistake years ago. She did her time, and after being released, she found a job as a bookkeeper with Grant Carver and his prestigious company. When Carver kills himself, she finds herself about to get a huge windfall, thanks to his will. But a second autopsy reveals that he was murdered by a poison called aconite, and she becomes the No. 1 suspect. It doesn't help her claims of innocence that she was embezzling funds from the company.

Dismas Hardy feels compelled to help Jarvis, not only because he truly believes that she didn't kill Carver, but also because he can't stay away from the courtroom. He was shot because of the last case he worked, and his wife doesn't want him working at all, especially not on a murder case. Hardy has to balance his personal feelings and his family's wishes against the pursuit of justice, even if it puts him back into a potentially dangerous situation.

Lescroart's characters play key roles in this marvelous mystery. In addition to Hardy playing the role of Perry Mason, police Lieutenant Abe Glitsky and private investigator Wyatt Hunt are also like their counterparts from the iconic series, with Hunt asking the tough questions from the potential suspects. The way the narrative flows also invokes key atmospheric moments paying a wonderful homage to the world created by Erle Stanley Gardner, while adding material to make it timely and relevant. While Dismas Hardy contemplates retirement, and his family encourages that decision, readers of this series won't want to see him leave the courtroom anytime soon.

BY JEFF AYERS, ASSOCIATED PRESS



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at **1717 4th Street Suite 250**, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4313 FURNISH AND DELIVER CONCRETE.

Submission Deadline is March 1, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

Public Notice
Santa Monica Rent Control Board

At its regular meeting on January 25, 2018, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board adopted Regulation 3120 and made amendments to Regulations 3105, 3106, 3108 and 3109.

The new and amended regulations will phase out pass throughs of certain items that appear on owners' property tax bills regarding voted indebtedness and direct assessments by eliminating surcharge pass throughs to tenants in the following instances:

1) The unit's rent is established for a new tenancy starting on or after March 1, 2018; or

2) The unit is in a building that is reassessed as the result of an ownership transfer on or after March 1, 2018; or

3) The unit is on a property that is reassessed on or after March 1, 2018 as the result of significant improvements.

Copies of the amended regulations are available at the Rent Control Agency in Room 202 at City Hall and at www.smgov.net/rentcontrol. Anyone interested in further information about the new regulations should contact the Rent Control Board at 310-458-8751 or visit our offices.

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Tourism Talks

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Inspired by a destination that is truly like no other, our collection allows people from around the world to enjoy a piece of Santa Monica. Shop Santa Monica is the perfect destination for gifts for loved ones. With the launch of our online store, those who love Santa Monica can purchase mementos from their home, no matter how far from sunny, Southern California that may be.

Shop Santa Monica serves as a digital extension of SMTT's Visitor Information Centers. With over 20 items currently available for sale there is something for everyone. Shipping options include domestic and international. Stay tuned as the selection of choices continues to grow.

Customers can display their Santa Monica pride and showcase laidback, beach-style with Shop Santa Monica's fashionable t-shirts, long-sleeves, sweatshirts, totes and athletic hats. For visitors looking to bring Santa Monica's coastal vibe into their home, Shop Santa Monica offers a selection of destination-inspired home goods including Santa Monica coasters, Route 66 coffee mugs and a book on the most Instagrammed Los Angeles location of 2017, the Santa Monica Pier – that makes for a perfect coffee table read. Hit the beach in style with limited edition Orlebar Brown board shorts, featuring the Santa Monica Pier.

See what's in store for yourself when you stop by one of the four Santa Monica Visitor Information Centers found throughout the city. Serving as your source for all things Santa Monica, each visitor center provides friendly, knowledgeable staff, free visitor guides and maps, foreign language lines as well as information on attractions, hotels, shopping, dining, museums, galleries, services and entertainment. Find out more on santamonica.com.

MISTI KERNS is CEO of Santa Monica Travel and Tourism.

MOVIE

FROM PAGE 1

BEST SCREENPLAY

It's not easy to sit down and write a feature-length screenplay. However, hundreds of thousands of writers do so every year with the hope of seeing their name in the credits of a feature film. Writing a good screenplay is not that simple. Writing a great screenplay seems as likely to happen as winning the lottery. A great screenplay pulls you in immediately, in the opening scene. It magnetically tugs at your emotions and beckons to you to identify with distinct characters whose traits you can see in yourself. It sets a tone and a rhythm in the narrative and the dialogue, like a symphony. It does not have to follow a formula – it can be highly unique and original. A great screenplay teaches you something that strengthens your faith in humanity and in yourself as a human being.

NOMINEES 2018

The Big Sick, written by real-life husband and wife Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon, is their own story of their cross-cultural romance. Kumail also stars in the film. This screenplay is a heartfelt narrative of their crazy, whirlwind courtship with all its highs and lows. This is a very well written romantic comedy about the trials of love between two people of vastly different cultures.

First-time director Jordan Peele wrote his own screenplay for Get Out. As a seasoned comedian, Peele gets the nuances of comedic timing, which help to lighten the horror aspect and the seriousness of the racial injustice theme of the movie. The screenplay is highly original with well-drawn characters, great momentum and an opening scene that is the epitome of the irony that is the heart of the movie.

Lady Bird is an autobiographical study written by the director, Greta Gerwig. This film has delighted audiences with its honest portrayal of imperfect yet lovable characters that we all know. Many audiences have identified with this story that plays like a meandering "buddy" movie. It's a classic coming of age tale that's simple, sweet, honest and realistic.

The Shape of Water, again written by the director, Guillermo del Toro, is one of the most unique, original screenplays ever. The story seems to originate perhaps in del Toro's memories of seeing the 1950's film The Creature from the Black Lagoon. He has endowed his characters with deep, striking universal personalities and emotions. The narrative never loses tempo from beginning to end and draws you in deeper and deeper until you have no question about the magnetic impulses that draw a mute cleaning woman to fall in love with a strange river creature. That definitely covers love between cultures. As bizarre as the story seems you will find yourself believing it – it's truly a work of art.

Three Billboards outside Ebbing Missouri is also written by its director, playwright Martin McDonagh. He shows a mastery of taking that fine line between comedy and tragedy, filling it with colorful, unique characters with universal personalities and motivations, and letting the whole package fly. This is a brilliant screenplay.

My choices? Do I have to choose? I would say number 1 is The Shape of Water, number 2 is Get Out, number 3 is Three Billboards – I think it's wrong to rank them though. They are all extraordinary!

KATHRYN WHITNEY BOOLE has spent most of her life in the entertainment industry, which is the backdrop for remarkable adventures with extraordinary people. She is a Talent Manager with Studio Talent Group in Santa Monica. kboole@gmail.com. For previously published reviews see https://kwboole.wordpress.com

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At 31, Ryan Coogler ascends to the top with 'Black Panther'

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Ryan Coogler was feeling overwhelmed by "Black Panther."

It was only his third feature film and, at just 30-years-old, he was making it with Hollywood's most powerful studio under enormous cultural expectations and with $200 million to get it right.

And he really didn't want it to "suck" (his word).

The Oakland, California, native got into filmmaking almost on a lark when a creative writing professor at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, where he was attending on a football scholarship, suggested he look into screenwriting. He had thought he would play football and be a doctor, maybe, to help his community. But this idea of being a filmmaker took hold, and after making a splash at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, he had solidified himself as one of the most promising and vibrant young directors to watch.

His first feature, the indie "Fruitvale Station," about the final 24 hours of Oscar Grant III, put him on the map after winning the Sundance Grand Jury and Audience prizes in 2013, a handful of critics groups awards and a Film Independent Spirit Award. His second, the "Rocky" spin-off "Creed," put him on another level.

The $35 million film grossed over $173 million worldwide and reinvigorated a franchise for Warner Bros.

It's the kind of one-two punch that made people who didn't even know him at the time, like actress Danai Gurira, feel proud.

"I had been at Sundance the same time he was there with 'Fruitvale Station.' I had so much respect and pride," Gurira said. "I had never met him but I was proud of him, of what he'd done and how he'd moved forward in the world and told stories that needed to be told."

Still, "Black Panther" was going to be a huge leap, even if odds that it would "suck" were slim. Coogler, 31, was used to making personal films at his own speed. This was a different beast — with visual effects, a huge ensemble cast and set pieces that would make any veteran filmmaker wake up in a cold sweat.

"This is the first project that I ever did that I felt like I had to make peace with the fact that I would never be caught up in my work," Coogler said. "I had to figure out how to let myself rest. You could work 24 hours a day and it still wouldn't be enough on a film like this. There's so much happening and so many decisions to be made."

"I had to learn to be more efficient," he added. "I got to learn how to do in 30 minutes what it took me two hours to do on the last movie."

To help, Coogler surrounded himself with a handful of constants, like his muse Michael B. Jordan, cinematographer Rachel Morrison, production designer Hannah Beachler and editor Michael Shawver, and got used to trusting those he hired to go off and do their jobs while he did his, knowing that he couldn't get hung up on details like what color someone's shoes would be. That's what Oscar-nominated costume designer Ruth E. Carter was there for, after all.

And Jordan, who starred in both "Fruitvale Station" and "Creed," said Coogler handled the pressure well.

"I didn't have as much time as I usually have with him. He had so many other things to tackle," Jordan said. "But other than that he's the same guy and that's what makes Ryan Ryan. He's unapologetically who he is 24-7. And he's consistent. A lot of people can't say that about themselves. We're still blasting music in between set-ups and takes and everybody on the crew was feeling like a big family. It was awesome."

On "Black Panther," Jordan just wanted to be there to support his friend when he needed it — Coogler always did it for him.

"Every movie that we've done I've been in some physically uncomfortable situations whether it's being freezing cold out somewhere or taking a punch or being in some extreme situation. Ryan? If I'm cold he's going to be cold. If I'm in some thin T-shirt or shirtless or in the elements, he's going to take his shirt off too and be right there with his actor," Jordan said. "He's willing to do whatever it is, whatever the actor is going through so we can do it together. That's a testament to him, man, teamwork, just being there for each other. I think that's rare. And it makes you want to follow him even more. He's a great leader."

Even recruits to the Coogler universe like Daniel Kaluuya and Letitia Wright felt part of the "family."

"I don't have the work, the credentials such as my other cast mates," said Wright. "I'm still piecing my career together. But he never made me feel less than, he never made me feel like I'm a newcomer."

Kaluuya felt similarly.

"He sees people. He sees the content of their character. And he's smart, he's deeply intelligent. You can see it in his films. Not every 30-year-old could do this," Kaluuya said. "He's a special, special director."

Coogler ultimately began to trust that the Marvel Studios execs actually did want him to make his own decisions and the deliver the film he always wanted to. Now he just hopes what he's made isn't going to fade.

"The fear I have is that you make something that's like dispensable, disposable, something somebody watches and forgets. I like movies that you can go back to. Movies that feel like they were always around, as soon as you see it, it feels like it was always there," Coogler said. "The worst thing in the world is to make this movie and be like, "Oh that was ok and on to the next." Especially not for this one. It's like you've got one shot, you've got to get this right."

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Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) Inviting Bids

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #18.14.ES John Adams Middle School – Auditorium Demo at John Adams Middle School. This project is subject to a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which is included in the bidding documents.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$300,000 - $400,000** and includes construction of: Site preparation including controls, E&S, Access; Abatement and Demolition of the Auditorium Building K; Site grading and other associated improvements. All bids must be filed in the SMMUSD Facility Improvement Office, 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 on or before 4/5/18 at 2:00 PM at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened. Each bid must be sealed and marked with the bid name and number. Bidders must attend a Mandatory Job Walk to be held at the site, on 2/21/18 at 10:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission:
All applications are due no later than 3/1/18 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at http://fipcontractors.smmusd.org/fip-office-website.aspx.

Mandatory Job Walk:
Wednesday, 2/21/18 at 10:30 AM

Job Walk location:
John Adams Middle School – 2425 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 - All Attending Contractors MUST meet representatives outside the front entrance of the school.

Bid Opening:
Thursday, 4/5/18 at 2:00PM

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop atsmbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

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Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Review: Tom Miller's novel turns gender roles upside down

"The Philosopher's Flight" (Simon & Schuster), by Tom Miller

Rarely does a novel begin with rollicking fierceness that grabs readers from its opening lines and doesn't loosen its grip or lessen its hold all the way through.

"The Philosopher's Flight" is the debut novel from Tom Miller, an emergency room doctor from Madison, Wisconsin, and he's woven a fanciful tale set against the historic backdrop of post-World War I America.

In the book's prologue, narrator Robert Weekes introduces empirical philosophy or sigilry – the movement of energy to produce a physical affect. Practitioners draw sigils or glyphs on various surfaces to choose the resulting action. The science/art came into widespread use in the 1750s and, by the novel's opening in 1917, it's used for everything from hovering and flying hundreds of miles to preventing pregnancy, healing injuries – and even, to murder.

Not surprisingly, philosophers have become much sought after in wartime. They're even credited with ending the Civil War.

Women excel at the practice, so naysayers dismiss it as witchcraft and an organized movement seeks to destroy it and send women back into the home rather than watch them rise through the military and academic ranks.

Male sigilrists are rare, but that doesn't dash Weekes' hopes of joining the same elite corps that his mother once led. When he receives a prodigious scholarship to Radcliffe College, then primarily for women, Weekes leaves his rural Montana town and heads to Boston where his formal studies begin as well as his eye-opening introduction to the larger world and its politics and social norms.

Miller's writing is intoxicating and one doesn't need to be a fantasy or sci-fi fan to adore this book. One only hopes Miller can manage to take a break from doctoring to write another book and another and another.

BY KIM CURTIS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Former 'Charles in Charge' actor claims abuse by Scott Baio

(AP) – A former "Charles in Charge" actor says Scott Baio assaulted and "mentally tortured" him during their time together on the show in the 1980s.

Alexander Polinsky made the allegations Wednesday in Los Angeles during a news conference.

Polinsky says Baio exposed himself, talked about gay sex acts with the young actor and once threw a hot cup of tea in his face.

Another "Charles in Charge" star, Nicole Eggert, came forward last month with claims that Baio sexually assaulted her when she was a minor while they worked together on the hit show.

Baio called those allegations false and said he and Eggert were involved in a consensual relationship when she was of legal age.

Baio spokesman Brian Glicklich said the new claims would be addressed at a news conference Wednesday afternoon.

SANDY COHEN, AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

FOOD

FROM PAGE 1

delicious. So, I went back again another day and had the same thing, and felt the same way.

I took a picture of the staff, who were also having a good time serving the customers. There was Bre, Nick, Sibylla, and Tim. Because I saw Vegemite on the menu, and heard an accent, my guess was they come from Australia. That is reinforced by the slogan "delicious brekkie" on the breakfast part of the menu.

Do you know the difference between a café and a diner? I didn't, but found out there: a diner is primarily a breakfast and lunch place, usually not open for dinner. A café is usually open three meals a day, serving to middle America. Little Ruby is clearly a café, serving three meals a day. You can sit inside or outside, and maybe get an ocean view. The menu is incredibly full: a dozen breakfast entries with plates you can't find everywhere, such as sweet corn fritters, banana bread, and ricotta hotcakes.

Lunch and dinner selections include bowls, burgers, salads, and pasta, with great sides — although everyone I saw was eating French fries.

You can get a beer, like me, a glass or bottle of wine, a good mimosa or another cocktail, organic tea, great coffee selections from their espresso machine, and one of five fresh juices (I had a fresh squeezed orange juice). Or try a smoothie like the banana and date, my favorite.

In short, for a small, narrow little restaurant, they turn out a fantastic selection of top notch café food and drink — it's really incredible for such a small place. And they turn it out with a really friendly attitude. They even have time for small talk!

That is, no doubt, why the place is usually pretty full, day and night, and why it gets mostly 5 star reviews on Yelp — Little Ruby gets better reviews than most of the high-priced restaurants in the neighborhood. The guy from New York is right.

Little Ruby
109 Santa Monica Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(424) 322-8353
rubyscafe.com

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT:

I received several responses to my article on the restaurant "MEAT." Some chastised me for not being sensitive to the way cattle are slaughtered. The company PR firm chastised me for not using the full legal name, "Meat on Ocean," but I replied that the sign on Ocean Avenue just says MEAT. They also mentioned that the waiter that told me that the restaurant is affiliated with Santa Monica Seafood is wrong. Keep those comments coming.

MERV HECHT, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book is "The Instant Wine Connoisseur, 3d edition" available on Amazon. He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com.



LUNAR

FROM PAGE 1

"Patrons are invited to hang a wish on the branches of the two New Year's Wishing Trees for a two-dollar donation. The proceeds will benefit Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) at UCLA. CSSA-UCLA is an officially registered on-campus organization devoted to organizing activities for Chinese student groups and promoting traditional Chinese culture on the UCLA campus."

The free event includes Chinese Music Duo, Stilt Walkers, Traditional Dough Artist, Balloon Twister, Arts/Crafts and Wishing Trees. There will be a Korean Fan Dance at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. and a Chinese Dragon Dance at 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

"The Dragon Dance is the big headliner, it's really awesome," said Stephanie H. Eglin, the Mall's Senior Manager Marketing.

She said the Korean Fan Dancers are also a big draw.

"We work really hard to get the most authentic talent for this event and the Dragon Dance is the big moment. People really love the dough artist, they line up for this, they really love it."

Eglin said the mall has a history of hosting the event.

"It's a cultural event and we've been hosting Lunar New Years at Santa Monica Place for several years," she said.

Visit www.santamonicaplace.com for more information.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

SCULPTURE: **The dought artist is a popular attraction at the mall's Lunar New Year event.**

PLAY

FROM PAGE 1

lines to be fitted, charmed, and kissed on both cheeks by this formidable gentleman.

He, in turn, is haunted by the memory of his mother, who treated him like a potential messiah and taught him the intricacies of designing and sewing unique costumes for women who are wealthy enough to afford them.

Woodcock works in a fashionable town house with a warren of tiny rooms and a winding staircase that rises for four floors to his private living quarters. His sister Cecily (Lesley Manville) also lives there, supervising the work force of matronly seamstresses who actually put the dresses together. She works in tandem with a stern, rigid martinet (Camilla Rutherford) who shares Woodcock's belief in strict adherence to the rules that he sets out. Both these women join Woodcock for meals and adhere to his insistence on complete quiet, which is one of his quirky demands.

One day, quite to his surprise, he becomes intrigued by a waitress in a local diner (Vicky Krieps) and asks her out for dinner. Following dinner he invites her to his home, not to seduce her, but to have her model one of the dresses he is designing. Deciding that she has the perfect body for his clothes, he invites her to become one of his models, and she moves into his house and becomes a part of his entourage.

While she quickly falls in love with him, and he is obviously fond of her, he does not change his attitudes or behavior and criticizes and admonishes her for every move she makes that violates his intractable rules. In fact, he treats her as harshly and insensitively as he does everyone else in his excessively restricted life.

She is a gentle and nurturing soul who eventually wins his love, for a time, by deliberately poisoning him and then nursing him back to health. He is overwhelmed by her devotion, but that isn't the end of the story.

Even though it's set in a relatively recent time, this beautifully rendered film is a "period" piece, moving as slowly as a film would if it were set in an earlier century. Written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, this memorable film has already won many awards and is one of this year's Oscar nominees for

Best Picture. Your mind, however, will remain forever blown away by the incredible performance of Daniel Day-Lewis. I hope his retirement is a happy one. But even playing an intense, angry, self-absorbed, crotchety old man, WE WILL MISS HIM!

"Phantom Thread" opened in Los Angeles in late December and is now playing in a theater near you.

CYNTHIA CITRON has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.



PHANTOM THREAD

Marguerite Agnes Borland

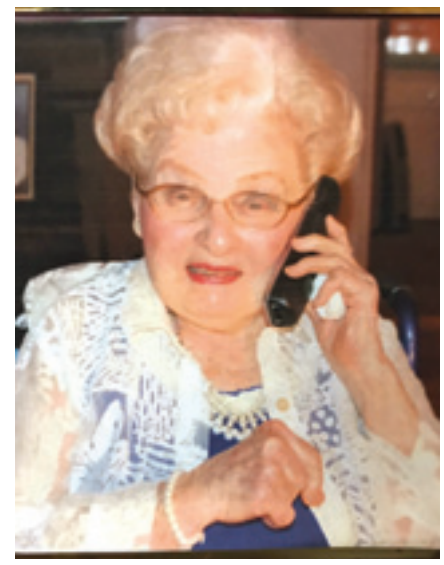
February 1, 1918 – February 3, 2018

Marguerite Agnes Borland was born near Lake Benton, Minnesota on February 1, 1918. She passed from this life at her home in Santa Monica, California on February 3, 2018. Her parents were Claude Allen Weaver and Charlotte Farquhar. Charlotte died when Marguerite was nine days old. She was reared and schooled near Sutherland, Iowa and gave her life to Christ as a child. She taught in the Trimellow rural school near Royal, Iowa for three years before marrying her sweetheart Howard James Borland on June 20, 1941 in Glendale, California.

Marguerite and Howard made their home in Santa Monica, California since 1941. Howard was a machinist at McDonnell Douglas for 32 years, retiring in 1973. He died in 2000 at age 88. Two children were born to this union—James Allen and Beverly Jeanne. Marguerite was an Avon representative for over fifty years and taught at the John Adams Preschool for most of twenty years. She loved children. Marguerite was very active in the Bible Baptist Church serving in the nursery, as head of the primary department, leading the Fidelis ladies' group, and as missionary treasurer until age 90. She and Howard hosted many missionary couples who visited their church. Marguerite was faithful in attendance and in self-sacrificing service.

Marguerite was an ideal wife, mother, and servant of Jesus Christ. She leaves over twenty great-grandchildren. She and Howard loved to travel in their camper. They made over seventy-five road trips to Iowa and across the county to visit relatives. They visited Israel, flew to Hawaii, and drove to Alaska. Marguerite also toured Europe, visited South America, South Africa, and China. She helped after the birth of eight grandchildren and attended all their graduations and weddings. She continued driving until an auto accident slowed her down at age 91. She has resided at her home in Santa Monica until a recent brief illness allowed her to rejoin her beloved husband and to see her dear Savior, Jesus Christ.





Marguerite was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Howard Borland, and by brothers Clyde, Robert, and James Weaver, and sisters LaVonne Anderson and Beverly Tuttle. Left to mourn are her sister Maxine Ewoldt of Paullina, Iowa, brothers Douglas Weaver of Calumet, Iowa, and Burdette Weaver and wife Mavis of Paullina; son James Borland and wife Linda of Lynchburg, Virginia; daughter Beverly Cavanaugh of Culver City, California; foster daughter Susan Herbert and husband Kim of Seneca, Missouri, and grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews with their spouses, and multitudes of friends too many to mention. She was loved by all and will be greatly missed. We were glad to experience her love, kindness, and godly example for so many wonderful years. She will be laid to rest beside her husband at Woodlawn Cemetery, Santa Monica, California.

Visitation will be from 1-4 p.m. at Pierce Brothers Mortuary, 1218 Glendon Ave., Los Angeles (Westwood), CA 90024 on Monday, February 19. The funeral will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 20 at Bible Baptist Church, 2516 20th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405, followed by a luncheon at the church. Burial at Woodlawn Cemetery is scheduled for 2 p.m., right after the luncheon.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Bill Paxton family sues hospital, doctor for wrongful death

The family of Bill Paxton has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against a Los Angeles hospital and the surgeon who performed the actor's heart surgery shortly before he died.

The suit filed Friday against Cedars-Sinai Medical Center alleges the surgeon, used a "high risk and unconventional surgical approach" that was unnecessary and that he lacked the experience to perform, and that he downplayed the procedure's risks.

And it alleges the hospital knew the surgeon, Dr. Ali Khoynezhad, tended to "engage in maverick surgeries and show suboptimal judgment."

The misguided treatment caused Paxton to suffer excessive bleeding, cardiogenic shock and a compromised coronary artery, the suit alleges.

Paxton's death certificate says he died Feb. 25, 2017, from a stroke, 11 days after surgery to replace a heart valve and repair aorta damage. He was 61.

"Bill Paxton and his family trusted the physicians and staff at this medical facility but instead Cedars-Sinai betrayed their trust," the family's attorney Bruce Broillet said in a statement. "The surgeon's actions resulted in this tragic and preventable death."

Paxton's widow, Louise, and children, James and Lydia, brought the lawsuit. It seeks unspecified damages and reserves the right to add more defendants who work for the hospital as their roles and names become clear.

Cedars-Sinai said it could not offer public comment about Paxton's case.

"State and federal privacy laws prevent us from commenting about patient care without written authorization," a statement said. "Nothing is more important to Cedars-Sinai than the health and safety of our patients. These remain our top priorities. One of the reasons for our high quality is that we thoroughly review concerns about any patient's medical care. This process ensures that we can continue to provide the highest quality care."

Khoynezhad has since left Cedars-Sinai for another hospital. An after-hours message left seeking comment from him was not immediately returned.

The lawsuit comes just before the first anniversary of the death of Paxton, who played major supporting roles in the films "Apollo 13," "Titanic," and "Aliens," and starred in the HBO series "Big Love."

Paxton, who was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, was among the industry's busiest actors, with nearly 100 credits, and was starring in the CBS drama "Training Day" when he died.

BY ANDREW DALTON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 380 Calls For Service On Feb. 13.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Speeding Centinela / Santa Monica 2:01 a.m.
Drunk driving 3300 block Lincoln 5:45 a.m.
Person down 2500 block Wilshire 7:57 a.m.
Vehicle parked 600 block Broadway 8:35 a.m.
Auto burglary 2600 block 4th 8:37 a.m.
Auto burglary 1600 block Centinela 8:42 a.m.
Burglary 1200 block 2nd 8:48 a.m.
Stalking 1400 block 2nd 9:03 a.m.
Petty theft 1900 block 22nd 9:05 a.m.
Traffic collision Harvard / Montana 9:06 a.m.
Person down 1500 block Ocean 9:12 a.m.
Hit and run 1600 block 4th 9:21 a.m.
Traffic collision 18th / Pico 9:35 a.m.
Battery 1700 block Cloverfield 9:39 a.m.
Burglary 1200 block 5th 9:51 a.m.
Traffic hazard Lincoln / Santa Monica 9:56 a.m.
Elder abuse 2200 block Colorado 9:58 a.m.
Indecent exposure Ocean / Seaside Ter 10:54 a.m.
Burglary 600 block Santa Monica 11:24 a.m.
Fight 500 block Broadway 11:33 a.m.
Burglary 400 block Bay 1:04 p.m.
Vehicle with excessive tickets 1600 block Pearl 1:07 p.m.
Injured person 200 block Santa Monica 1:11 p.m.
Grand theft 1000 block Bay 1:30 p.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block Princeton 1:33 p.m.
Threats Lincoln / Olympic 1:44 p.m.
Sexual assault ocean / Colorado 1:50 p.m.
Traffic collision 14th / Washington 2:19 p.m.
Domestic violence 3400 block Ocean Park 2:36 p.m.
Identity theft 500 block 9th 2:44 p.m.
Traffic hazard 2500 block 28th 2:52 p.m.
Vandalism 2300 block ocean Park 3 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 700 block Pier 3:16 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block Pacific Coast Hwy 3:34 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1300 block Wilshire 4:04 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block Pacific Coast Hwy 4:07 p.m.
Burglary 1500 block 10th 4:11 p.m.
Auto burglary 1500 block Pacific Coast Hwy 4:31 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 3000 block Lincoln 4:59 p.m.
Speeding Cloverfield / Ocean Park 5:08 p.m.
Battery 1300 block Lincoln 5:13 p.m.
Auto burglary 4th / Hill 5:34 p.m.
Identity theft 1100 block 11th 5:34 p.m.
Petty theft 1600 block Cloverfield 5:45 p.m.
Burglary 1100 block 9th 6:34 p.m.
Petty theft 700 block Santa Monica 6:39 p.m.
Encampment 400 block Santa Monica Pier 6:48 p.m.
Petty theft 500 block Wilshire 6:55 p.m.
Encampment 900 block Lincoln 7 p.m.
Lost property 300 block Santa Monica Pier 7:06 p.m.
Death 1400 block 21st 7:11 p.m.
Petty theft 600 block Wilshire 7:12 p.m.
Speeding 10th / Montana 7:12 p.m.
Petty theft 800 block Broadway 7:14 p.m.
Drunk driving 16th / Ocean Park 7:22 p.m.
Petty theft 300 block Colorado 7:42 p.m.
Death 2500 block Wilshire 8:05 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper 300 block Santa Monica Pl 8:25 p.m.
Battery 700 block Broadway 8:40 p.m.
Battery 2500 block Pico 9:02 p.m.
Burglary 1200 block 5th 9:04 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1500 block 10th 11:12 p.m.
Petty theft 17th / Colorado 11:25 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 38 Calls For Service On Feb. 13.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

EMS 2900 block 31st 12:58 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 15th 5:49 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Cloverfield 5:50 a.m.
EMS 1000 block Ocean 6:38 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 11th 7:40 a.m.
EMS 2400 block 21st 8:31 a.m.
EMS 200 block San Vicente 8:59 a.m.
EMS 800 block Ocean 9:04 a.m.
EMS 1500 block Ocean 9:13 a.m.
EMS 300 block California 10:25 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 16th 10:53 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2300 block Broadway 10:54 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Wilshire 11:47 a.m.
EMS 600 block 12th 12:24 p.m.
EMS 15th/ Wilshire 12:38 p.m.
EMS 400 block Expo Line 12:39 p.m.
EMS 2000 block Santa Monica 12:39 p.m.
EMS 200 block Santa Monica 1:10 p.m.
Traffic collision 14th / Washington 2:20 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block California 2:33 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block California 2:39 p.m.
Wires down 2500 block 28th 2:52 p.m.
EMS 2900 block Wilshire 3:12 p.m.
EMS 11th / Colorado 3:18 p.m.
EMS 1100 block 7th 4:46 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 7th 4:53 p.m.
Automatic alarm 400 block Lincoln 6:16 p.m.
EMS 1200 block 14th 6:36 p.m.
EMS 2600 block 28th 6:45 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 21st 6:59 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 7:30 p.m.
EMS 2500 block Wilshire 8:06 p.m.
EMS 1400 block Santa Monica 8:55 p.m.
EMS 800 block Santa Monica 9:38 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 6th 9:52 p.m.
EMS Lincoln / Broadway 10:13 p.m.





DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 2/10
1 13 27 41 59
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 203M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 2/13
5 12 15 46 49
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 168M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/10
27 32 33 41 42
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 9M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/13
23 26 29 30 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/13
MIDDAY: 1 6 9
Draw Date: 2/13
EVENING: 0 5 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/13
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:44.54

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

WORD UP!

ship
1. to take an interest in or hope for a romantic relationship between (fictional characters or famous people), whether or not the romance actually exists: I'm shipping for those guys—they would make a great couple !

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Carbo-Boding

■ Dietary fat has long been considered a dirty word and something to be avoided. But a new international study suggests that when it comes to living longer, the bigger villain may be overabundant carbohydrates.

■ The published PURE study looked at the eating habits of 135,000 adults in 18 countries representing diverse demographics over more than seven years. It found that participants with the highest dietary fat intake (35 percent of daily calories) were 23 percent less likely to have died during the study than those with the lowest fat intake (10 percent). Rates of various cardiovascular diseases were the same across the board, but strokes were less common among higher fat eaters.

■ The reverse was true for carb consumption. Consumers at the high end (77 percent carbs daily) were 28 percent more likely to have died than those as lowest (46 percent).

■ The study was observational, so it cannot prove cause and effect, but study authors said the findings suggest a longer lived diet would be rich in fruits, beans, seeds, vegetables and fats, with a bit of whole grain and very little in refined carbohydrates and sugars.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

O	W	N	S	■	C	O	L	A	D	A	■	J	A	B
P	O	E	T	■	O	L	I	V	E	S	■	A	G	O
E	N	E	R	G	Y	D	R	I	N	K	■	N	E	A
N	A	D	I	R	■	S	E	A	T	■	B	E	S	T
S	T	E	F	A	N	■	■	T	A	H	O	E	■	■
■	■	D	E	F	E	N	S	E	L	A	W	Y	E	R
■	■	■	T	R	O	T	■	■	S	E	R	V	E	■
E	R	O	S	■	O	R	A	L	B	■	D	E	E	D
L	O	U	P	E	■	■	R	O	O	F	■	■	■	■
I	N	T	E	R	I	O	R	P	A	I	N	T	■	■
■	■	B	L	A	N	C	■	■	S	N	O	R	T	S
A	W	O	L	■	S	T	A	T	■	A	M	O	R	E
H	E	X	■	S	T	A	T	E	F	L	O	W	E	R
A	V	E	■	S	E	N	O	R	A	■	R	E	S	T
B	E	D	■	A	P	E	M	A	N	■	E	L	S	A

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

7				2		8		4
		5	8		4		1	
	8			5		9		3
	6			3		4	2	5
			5		6			
5	4	8		1			3	
8		1		7			9	
	9		1		2	5		
4		2		9				1

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

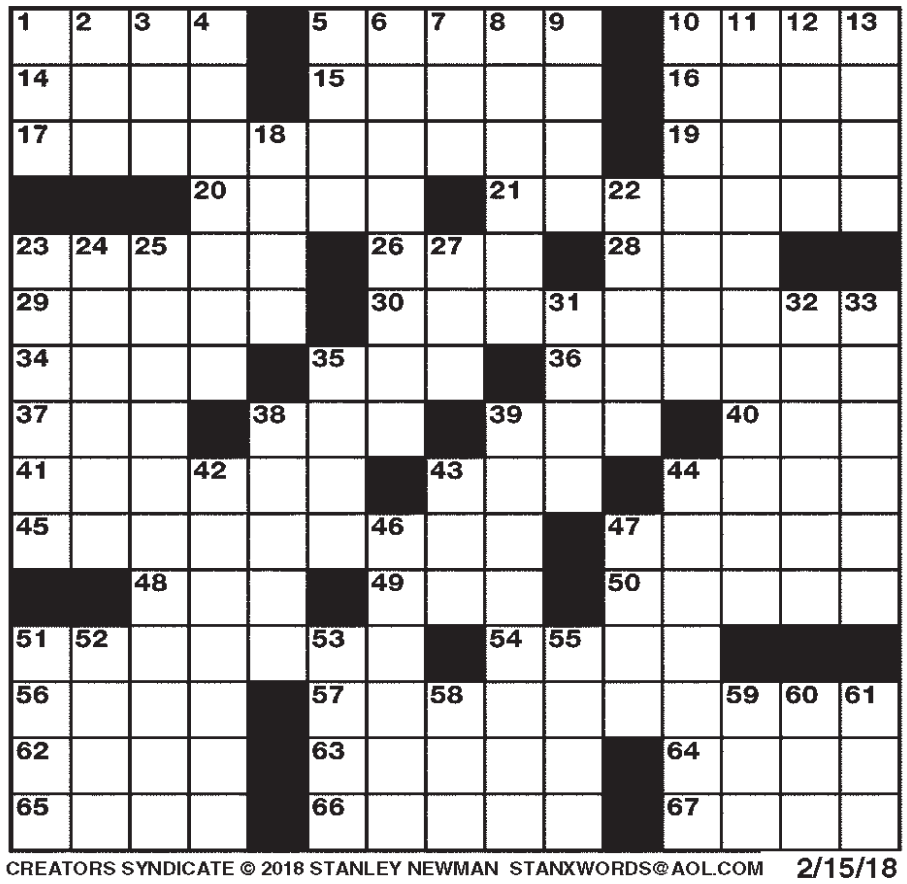
6	5	8	7	1	3	2	4	9
9	1	7	2	4	6	5	3	8
4	3	2	8	5	9	1	6	7
1	7	3	9	8	2	4	5	6
8	4	5	6	7	1	3	9	2
2	9	6	5	3	4	8	7	1
3	8	1	4	9	7	6	2	5
5	6	9	3	2	8	7	1	4
7	2	4	1	6	5	9	8	3

Newsday Crossword

ERROR-PRONE by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Dairy dozen
5 Stop, look and listen
10 Leatherworking tools
14 One courting
15 More than needed
16 Asian cuisine
17 Ballpark souvenir
19 Symbol of aggression
20 Novelist Paretsky
21 High points
23 Agree to take part
26 Action film weapon
28 Creative skill
29 One of the eco-friendly three R's
30 Proof of purchase
34 Toon imp since the '80s
35 Engine additive letters
36 Not for tots, as some films
37 Biblical refuge
38 Ring stats
39 Actor Wheaton
40 Game cube
41 Declutters
43 Detective story pioneer
44 Heckled
45 Yogi Bear catchphrase
47 "Victory is ours!"
48 "Bargain" receptacle
49 Contribute
50 Granny's girls
51 Extended silence on the radio
54 Soup seasoning
56 In the past
57 Lummox
62 Stuffed shirt
63 Display stand
64 Stood up
65 Choosing rhyme start
66 Dense hardwood
67 Gift-bag goodies

DOWN
1 Diminish
2 Prefix for political
3 Chitchat
4 Nourish oneself (on)
5 Shift course
6 Depletes
7 Way to go: Abbr.
8 Largest coffee producer
9 Pop singer from Nigeria
10 To begin with
11 Reduce gradually
12 Pupil protector
13 Gathers dust
18 Narrow path
22 Twangy in speech
23 *Law & Order* star
24 Visionworks alternative
25 Low-fat breakfast serving
27 Cook quickly
31 Water beside Toledo
32 Terse admission
33 Overuses the mirror
35 Minimally acceptable
38 Swedish money
39 Guys wielding axes
42 Comply with
43 Seed protector
44 Venerable news agency
46 Running total of rounds
47 Obstacle course challenge
51 Antibiotic specification
52 Feminizing finish
53 "Makes sense"
55 With the appropriate skill
58 "Force Behind the Forces" org.
59 Act of respect
60 Basic cable channel
61 Hard-drive measure



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 15)

You seek clarity, and you'll find it. You'll understand where your power lies and how to use it. This will manifest in a much less serious way than it sounds: Delight and enjoyment will open as many doors for you as hard work and study. Trust yourself, and believe the forces are working to lift you and let you fly. Aries and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 22, 1 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Though generations before you did things a certain way and the principles they used to get through life are still relevant today, modern problems require you to build on that foundation. You'll acquire new tools in the weeks to come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
The best way to predict what happens next is still the same as always: Make it happen. Today's work may be a bit rushed, but it's still remarkable and generous if not as polished as it might have been had you more time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
The antidote to selfishness is publicity. Most would avoid the shame of being called out for putting one's own interests before the interests of loved ones, teammates or the group — unless, of course, selfishness is the cultural norm.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Is any creature on the earth built for empathy? It could be argued that empathy plays against individual survival instincts. It's definitely not the first instinct of humankind, yet it's definitely required for the survival of our species.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Don't wait until life forces you to sprint. Just sprint to energize things. Just sprint to prove that you can. No one can sprint for the whole of the race, but a good marathon runner builds the occasional sprint into the over-all plan.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You're going to do the brave thing — not because you have less to lose (if you had nothing to lose, it wouldn't be brave) but because you realize more than the others do that your action is what's sorely needed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
The situation will trigger your competitive instincts. Suddenly it will be important to dress, talk and move like the winner. Much of this will come naturally to you, although some degree of study may also be involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You won't be satisfied with just any result. You want your work to be artful and useful, or you'd rather not turn it in at all. The thing is, you're not the best judge of this today. Just turn it in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
The omens warn against selling your future for today's quick fix, and yet fixing something quickly doesn't always spell trouble in the future. So examine your options from a long-term perspective, and do your best.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
In general, your life is easier when you make fewer promises. However, everything you do sets up an expectation. The promises are implicit. And every one you keep builds trust that you'll keep them in the future, too.

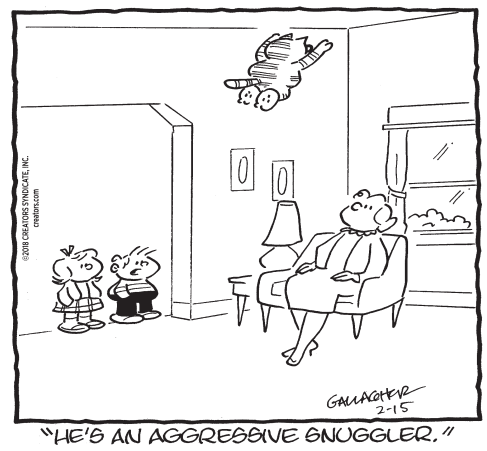
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
How you imagine yourself will define your position. What one person considers a position of weakness another may consider a position of strength.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
As you climb the mountain to get a better view you make yourself more conspicuous to those below. This may not be your aim, but you should be aware that the beauty and knowledge you seek will make you more influential.

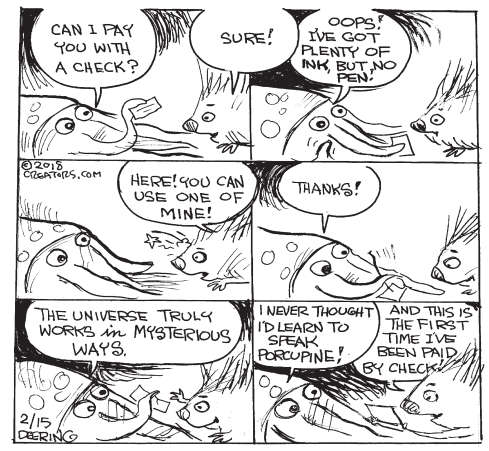
Doorway to the Year of the Dog

Today brings the solar eclipse and new moon in Aquarius — a doorway to the beginning of the Lunar New Year of the Earth Dog. This momentary solar disappearance is like heaven's wink: a reminder that we're all on this amusing ride together. Win or lose, it's a shared experience made tolerable by faith in our fellow humans.

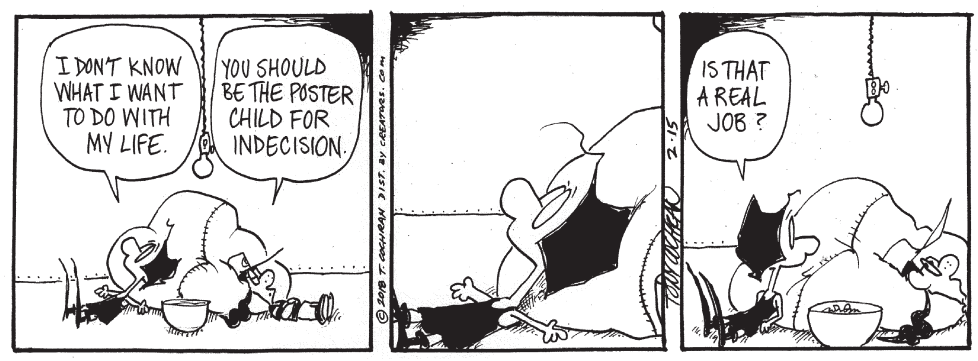
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



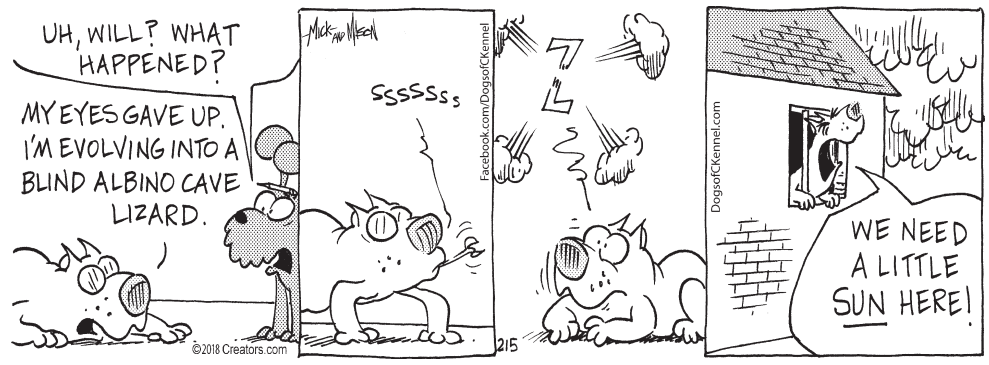
Strange Brew
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Agnes
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Dogs of C-Kennel
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Zack Hill
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MUSIC

FROM PAGE 1

You'll have a big smile on your face and be floating for hours. You'll have stories to tell your friends! And your grandchildren! You'll be suddenly, unequivocally hip.

Even if you don't go — this time — you'll become more aware of how much really good music is out there. Or you will just learn something interesting, for future reference or present illumination.

Or you can use what I wrote to lie about having gone, and enhance your cool factor without ever having gotten off that dadgum couch.

BUT FIRST! HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

It's not music and I haven't even seen it, but I feel confident plugging the new play coming to the Ruskin Group Theatre at the airport, for two reasons. I haven't yet seen anything there that hasn't completely entertained me, and some that have thrilled me or brought me to tears. And, this one gets extreme enthusiasm from managing director and SM Arts Commission chair Mike Myers, and he's always pretty cautious with his hype.

It's called "The Alamo," about a rundown neighborhood bar in Brooklyn whose regulars are resisting a gentrification invasion of "young neo-carpetbaggers." He hasn't said so, but I suspect part of Myers' enthusiasm is that he feels it has relevance to Santa Monica issues. A veteran, all-star cast. Previews Friday, regular run starts the following Friday.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! STREETWALKIN' CHEETAHS, THOR (return of legendary LA punkers plus legends-in-their-own-minds, Canadian musclemen Thor — I'm going!), 7:30 p.m., Viper Room, Hollywood, $10.

TONIGHT! OAK RIDGE BOYS (goose bump harmonies, descendants of the '40s gospel group who sang for the cloistered workers at Oak Ridge, TN's Manhattan Project nuclear plant, these guys have been doin' it nearly half a century, lead singer-painter William Lee Golden's way-pre-ZZ Top beard still making Billy Gibbons jealous), 8 p.m., Grammy Museum, downtown LA, $30.

KITTEN (wow! they're still around, or rather she's still around, singer/force of nature Chloe Chaidez, for whom every stage is too small, who when I saw her at the Bootleg Theater years ago was already a seasoned veteran at 16 — I've rarely seen anyone so charismatic), Fri, 8 p.m., the Smell (all ages), downtown LA, Mon, 8 p.m., Bardot Hollywood, no covers.



STREETWALKIN' CHEETAHS



OAK RIDGE BOY WILLIAM LEE GOLDEN



ERIC KUFS

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE ('nuff said), Sat, 7 p.m., the Forum, Inglewood, $34.50-$59.50.

Christopher Cross… oh ha ha ha, Charles, you crack me up.

WILD HONEY ORCHESTRA Tribute to BUFFALO SPRINGFIELD (this will likely be really good because the music is and the players are — CARLENE CARTER, daughter of June Carter Cash and simply terrific, MARTHA DAVIS of the Motels, CARLA OLSON, Monkees drummer and Circus Boy MICKEY DOLENZ, and BS founding member RICHIE FURAY but don't let him preach, please, on FB he only speaks in scripture — I'm so sorry I missed their first tribute last year to the Band), Sat, 8 p.m., Alex Theatre, Glendale, $20-$110 (benefit for Autism Think Tank).

ERIC KUFS (I've caught Kufs before and he's one of the best acts they book there, total pro, great voice, songs, presentation, and I'll just add that his audience skews way more women than men, if you know what I mean, just sayin'), Sun, 10 a.m., Main Street Farmers Market, Ocean Park, no cover.

ANNABELLA LWIN'S BOW WOW WOW (wow! remember them? their 15 weeks of fame? this could be great or awful but I had to mention it, awful theme restaurant idea though), Sat, 10:30 p.m., New Wave Restaurant & Bar, Bellflower

CUBA L.A. (led by flutist-producer-educator-Hollywood Bowl Orchestra founding member DANILO LOZANO, honoring his inspiration the late conguero Francisco Aguabella), Sat, 7 p.m., Sun, 4 p.m., Getty Center, LA, no cover, reservation required.

ORCHESTRA SANTA MONICA Winter Concert: Hummel Trumpet Concerto, Haydn Symphony No. 85 ("The Queen of France"), Bizet Symphony in C Major (founder-music director-conductor Allen Robert Gross just announced his retirement, can the Orchestra survive? the formerly SM-based Dream Orchestra now does only occasional concerts around LA and is searching for a venue — man, classical music is a tough gig), Sun, 2:30 p.m., Moss Theater, Santa Monica, $10-$30.

LIQUID KITTY PUNK ROCK BBQ with cheap drinks, free hot dogs and six bands, Pedro's Sh*t 4 Brainz, Atomic Sherpas, legendary punk instrumentalists Lawndale, PRV13, Superbean, the Mormons (I miss Liquid Kitty! but former employees Jason and Damian are now part owners of the venerable old — 1931! — local blues club Harvelle's, hooray! and have relocated their rowdy Presidents Day celebration there, though I do question honoring, on the poster, as "Miss Presidents Day," psycho Manson Family member and Santa Monica native Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, involved in but not convicted of several grisly murders, finally serving 34 years for pointing a pistol at President Gerald Ford — I know SNL and several other shows used to spoof her but I just don't find a life of violence and murder all that funny), Sun, 1 - 7 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, no cover.

SO — If you're not exhausted from Saturday's ridiculous cornucopia of sounds all over town (I only listed some), Sunday you could go from the terrific pop singer at the Main Street Farmers' Market to the punk rock BBQ to classical, all in Santa Monica, to Cuba LA at the nearby Getty, and still have your evening free for more music. I just hate living here. Sorry, Albuquerque.



THOR

JUNIOR REID & THE ONE BLOOD BAND (recorded his first single in Kingston for Hugh Mundell at age 13, was Black Uhuru's lead vocalist for three albums), Wed, 9 p.m., Los Globos, Silverlake, $19.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Egrets on Ergot, Scam & Jam, Tramp for the Lord, Hammers of Misfortune, Sumo Princess, High-Functioning Flesh, F*** U Pay Us, Boy Scouts of Annihilation

LYRIC OF THE WEEK: "And I wanna rock your gypsy soul, just like way back in the days of old, and together we will float, into the mystic." — Van Morrison

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com





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